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REPORT ON ACTIVITIES OF THE CEPAL SECRETARIAT RELATING TO THE INTEGRATION OF WOMEN IN THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT OF LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN

79-10-2539

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/I. INTRODUCTION

INTRODUCTION

1. Both the World Plan of Action adopted by the World Conference of the International Women's Year, held in Mexico in 1975, and General Assembly resolutions 3520 (XXX), 31/136 and 31/175 recognize the differences between the various regions and the need to implement plans of action which are in keeping with their specific levels of development. They therefore delegated to the regional economic commissions the responsibility for promoting the activities aimed at the integration of women in development within their respective spheres, since they are the bodies best suited to carry out that function within the structure of the United Nations System. In accordance with the foregoing a meeting of a governmental technical commission was held in the subregional office of CEPAL in Mexico in January 1977 to prepare a draft project of a regional plan of action.

2. At the first Regional Conference on the Integration of Women in the Economic and Social Development of Latin America, held in Havana in June 1977, the representatives of the governments of Latin America and the Caribbean adopted a regional plan of action which includes the responsibilities of CEPAL in this field.1/

3. The Regional Plan of Action was adopted in final form at the eleventh extraordinary session of the Committee of the Whole of CEPAL held in New York on 21 November 1977.2/

4. As from that date the CEPAL secretariat has had an official instrument as a starting point for its national, subregional and regional activities. The purpose of the Regional Plan of Action (RPA) is "to present a minimum action programme aimed at the promotion of equality of opportunity and responsibility for women in the common effort to overcome the obstacles which hinder the development of both men and women as individuals and as members of a society",3/

1/ E/CEPAL/1042/Rev.1.
2/ E/CEPAL/AC.71/4.
3/ RPA, paragraph 10.

/5. The

5. The RPA envisages action at the regional, subregional and country levels. The actors or active agents called upon to fulfil its mandates are the national governments, non-governmental organizations, international organizations, associations and individuals. As the responsible regional body of the United Nations System, CEPAL must "assume an even greater role in formulating policies, developing machinery and instruments, and co-ordinating measures that permit women to participate equally with men in the political, economic and social life of the respective countries of the region as a whole".4/ In accordance with the mandates of the Regional Plan of Action, the priority sectors are: legislation, employment, education, health, the family, social services and other facilities for the incorporation and permanency of women in work, housing, the mass communication media and predominant cultural patterns, political participation, other social questions, including the struggle against prostitution and the illicit traffic in persons, protection of female prisoners, rape and other sexual crimes, etc. As may be seen, all these aspects are components of development and thus consideration should be given to the participation of women in each and every one of them.

6. In addition, it is established that "the Presiding Officers of the Regional Conference will continue their functions until new ones are appointed and will be the link between governments and the secretariat of CEPAL in the field of women's integration in development",5/ and that "the secretariat of CEPAL will act as the Permanent Secretariat of this Regional Conference and will regularly consult with its Presiding Officers".6/

7. Pursuant to these mandates of the Regional Plan of Action, the Presiding Officers have held three meetings up to the present date. The first took place in Kingston, Jamaica, in February 1978 and carried out the first appraisal by the Presiding Officers of the achievements of the first months of work. They suggested guidelines for priority action, in accordance with the mandates of the Regional Plan of Action.7/ These guidelines and the action taken after the first meeting of the Presiding Officers were

4/ RPA, paragraph 87.
5/ RPA, paragraph 88.2.
6/ RPA, paragraph 88.3.
7/ E/CEPAL/MDM/1.

/examined at

examined at the second meeting of the Presiding Officers in Mexico on 28 and 29 September 1978.8/ At the third meeting of the Presiding Officers, held in Quito on 11 March 1979, the work of the previous six months was discussed, together with the report on the situation of women in Latin America by the Group of Government Experts, which met before the Presiding Officers. There was also a discussion on the convocation for the Regional Conference on the Integration of Women in Development and its Draft Agenda.9/

8. Pursuant to the mandate of the Regional Plan of Action to "undertake activities aimed at disseminating the actions stemming from the Regional Plan of Action on the basis of the studies undertaken" 10/ and with the agreement of the Presiding Officers, who requested the CEPAL secretariat "to send governments a sufficient number of copies of the Regional Plan of Action for distribution to all the governmental and non-governmental institutions concerned",11/ resources were obtained from the Voluntary Fund for the United Nations Decade for Women to cover the printing of the Regional Plan of Action. Ten thousand copies in Spanish of the complete official text have been printed and are being distributed, as well as 4,500 copies in English, 1,000 copies in French and 2,000 copies in Portuguese.

9. In addition, the text of the RPA was included in the "Notas sobre la Economía y Desarrollo de América Latina" (No. 249, July 1977), distributed by the CEPAL Information Services, with a printing of 4,600 copies in Spanish. Thus, the RPA has been very broadly distributed not only to governments and their bodies and to agencies and institutions and private individuals in the region but also to other regions.

10. The present report deals with the activities of the CEPAL secretariat from 1 February 1978 to 15 August 1979.

8/ E/CEPAL/MDM/2/Rev.1.
9/ E/CEPAL/MDM/5/Rev.1.
10/ RPA, paragraph 88.5 (ii).
11/ E/CEPAL/MDM/1/9.6 (e).

/I. ORGANIZATIONAL

I. ORGANIZATIONAL ASPECTS

1. Creation of a special unit

11. The need to create a special unit for the integration of women in the economic and social development of Latin America was suggested to Headquarters on various occasions by the secretariat, and was particularly stressed in the report entitled "Activities of CEPAL in the Integration of Women in Development", of September 1977, which was sent to Headquarters.

12. In this connexion the Regional Plan of Action establishes that "the secretariat of CEPAL will create within CEPAL (including ILPES and CELADE and in collaboration with the United Nations Centre for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs) a specialized interdisciplinary unit on women's integration in development ..." 12/ and goes on to specify the unit's objectives.

13. Pursuant to this mandate, the secretariat established a Programme on the Integration of Women in Development, which was brought to the notice of the entire staff of CEPAL, ILPES and CELADE by means of an internal circular dated 26 June 1978, which gave details on its institutional position and its co-ordination machinery and was accompanied by relevant extracts from the Regional Plan of Action.

14. In the restructuring of the secretariat it is planned to set up the unit under the name of Unit on the Integration of Women in the Economic and Social Development of Latin America. It will be a special unit within the Social Development Division.

15. It should be stressed that the Programme has received considerable co-operation from the Social Development Division, whose Director supervises its activities, and from other CEPAL units, as well as from ILPES, CELADE and CLADES, i.e., from the entire CEPAL system, which is also carrying out co-ordination and co-operation functions with the main programmes and agencies of the United Nations: UNICEF, UNDP, FAO, UNESCO, WHO/PAHO, UNFPA, PREALC, ILO and others with representatives and liaison offices in Santiago.

12/ RPA, paragraph 88.5.

/16. Finally,

16. Finally, with the object of reviewing the development of the Programme and formulating projections for the future, the Unit obtained the assistance of a group of experts consisting of four high-level consultants from various countries in Latin America, who met at CEPAL headquarters in April 1979.13/

2. Personnel

17. With regard to staff for the Unit, a permanent post has been allocated from the CEPAL budget from 1 January 1978, to be responsible for the co-ordination of the Unit. Up to the present the resources of the post, which has not yet been filled, have been used for studies and monographs specifically undertaken as contributions to the Regional Appraisal. These funds have also been used to contract the director of the workshop on "The Impact of Agricultural Modernization on the Participation of Rural Women",14/ which was held in Mexico in October 1978. In accordance with United Nations rules for staff recruitment, the vacant post has been advertised in order to fill it permanently. There has been a large number of candidates from inside and outside the region. At present the selection of the person who will be designated for the post is in its final phase.

18. The Unit has the following staff: (a) a co-ordinator, financed by a special contribution from the Swedish Government to CEPAL for a period of four years (up to 31 December 1980); (b) a programme officer financed by the Voluntary Fund for the United Nations Decade for Women for four years (up to 30 June 1981); (c) a part-time research assistant from the Social Development Division, contracted from 1977; (d) for one year, until June 1978, a bilaterally-appointed expert financed by the Government of the Netherlands, basically for research, and (e) various experts who have collaborated with the Unit as consultants.

19. It is clear from the above that the brunt of the activities carried on to date has been borne by a very small group of people, most of them temporary, who, in collaboration with other CEPAL units and divisions, have made great efforts to achieve the results described in this report.

13/ See paragraphs 44 to 48 of the present report.

14/ See paragraph 52 of the present report.

/Nevertheless, it

Nevertheless, it is evident that the human infrastructure of the Programme must be strengthened in order to enlarge its sphere of action, extend its activities to the subregional level, and implement more projects in keeping with its mandates and recommendations. The secretariat has attempted to strengthen the capacity of the Programme both with internal resources and with external support, and will continue to do so by seeking aid from all available sources in the future.

20. The Unit has also been reinforced in the field of information, documentation and statistics through a Project on Research to Promote the Integration of Women in Latin American Development,15/ contributed by a documentalist.

21. With a view to effective decentralization in order to respond to regional characteristics and need, a specialized sub-unit was established in Port of Spain in May this year. The Programme Officer posted for this purpose to the CEPAL office in that city took up her duties at that time and is now co-ordinating the activities in the Caribbean subregion.

22. At present discussions are under way to secure resources to establish a similar sub-unit in the CEPAL office in Mexico, with a view to developing comprehensive, integrated programmes serving the subregion of Central America and Mexico.16/ The necessary resources have been requested from UNDP (finance for the post) and from the Voluntary Fund (finance for the activities and projects).

II. RELATIONS

1. Relations with the governments

23. In virtue of the responsibility assigned to CEPAL by the Regional Plan of Action on the subject of the Integration of Women in the Economic and Social Development of Latin America, numerous missions have been carried out in the region to date in order to promote the dissemination of the mandates of the RPA, to foster activities directed to the incorporation of women in

15/ See paragraph 50 of the present report.

16/ See paragraph 53 of the present report.

development by means of national, subregional or regional projects, to stimulate measures aimed at the preparation of diagnoses of the situation of women and their consideration within the development plans of the countries.

24. Pursuant to the mandate to "periodically evaluate the legal, economic, political, social and cultural status of women both of rural and urban areas in the different countries of the region, in accordance with the objectives and priorities established in the Regional Plan of Action",17/ and in conformity with the request of the Presiding Officers at their first meeting to "send a questionnaire to governments in order to obtain information on the progress made in implementing the Regional Plan of Action for the Integration of Women in the Economic and Social Development of Latin America, questionnaire which should be dispatched by the secretariat as soon as possible, with a request to the governments that they reply not later than the end of July 1978",18/ all member governments of CEPAL were sent a "questionnaire on the implementation of the Regional Plan of Action for the Integration of Women in the Economic and Social Development of Latin America".

25. The questionnaire has sections on legislation, administrative machinery, employment, education, health, the family and political participation, and is thus in keeping with the action proposals contained in the RPA. To facilitate and ensure response, copies of the questionnaire and of the notes sent to the governments were forwarded to the resident representatives of all the UNDP National Offices in the region for delivery to the national planning offices. Replies have been received to date (August 1979) from 21 countries out of the total of 32 full members of CEPAL consulted.

26. In accordance with the mandate to "advise those governments that request it on the measures to be taken to fulfil the decisions adopted by the United Nations in relation to the integration of women in development",19/ and with the agreements made at the first meeting of Presiding Officers which

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17/ RPA, paragraph 88.5 (ix).

18/ E/CEPAL/MDM/1, paragraph 9.6 (d).

19/ RPA, paragraph 88.5 (iii).

/requested the

requested the CEPAL secretariat to "prepare an information document on the criteria laid down by the General Assembly, by the Advisory Committee of the United Nations Voluntary Fund for the Decade of Women, and by other resolutions on the preparation and formulation of projects" 20/ and "to draft some standardized guidelines to facilitate the formulation and presentation of projects",21/ a document was drafted in Spanish and English entitled "Presentation and preparation of projects for the Consultative Committee of the United Nations Voluntary Fund for the Decade of Women".22/ These mandates were based on the idea that the shortage of projects submitted by governments was mainly due to the lack of information on the above criteria. This document and the above-mentioned questionnaires were distributed simultaneously, together with the report of the first meeting of the Presiding Officers 23/ and copies of the Regional Plan of Action as described above, i.e., to the governments and resident representatives of UNDP. Subsequently, when the report on the second meeting of the Presiding Officers 24/ was distributed, the questionnaire and the document on the preparation of projects were again sent to the governments on the instructions of the Presiding Officers.

2. Relations with Headquarters

27. An active exchange of information and activities has been maintained between the CEPAL Women's Programme and the United Nations Centre for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs. In particular, in accordance with the Regional Plan of Action,25/ co-operation has been intensified in the preparatory work for the forthcoming World Conference of 1980.

20/ E/CEPAL/MDM/1, paragraph 9.6 (a).

21/ E/CEPAL/MDM/1, paragraph 9.6 (b).

22/ E/CEPAL/L.177.

23/ E/CEPAL/MDM/1.

24/ E/CEPAL/MDM/2/Rev.1.

25/ RPA, paragraph 88.5.

/28. Information

28. Information has been supplied to the governments and there has been collaboration in various ways at meetings organized by Headquarters for this purpose and in the organization of the Second Regional Conference which serves at the same time as a preparation for the World Conference. There has also been active and constant collaboration with the Voluntary Fund in regard to the formulation, execution and supervision of subregional and national projects in fulfilment of the goals and priorities fixed by the WPA and the RPA. In order to co-ordinate criteria in this field and to review current procedures on projects an officer from the Fund took part in various meetings at the Unit's headquarters, one of them interinstitutional, as she subsequently reported at the third meeting of the Presiding Officers (Quito, March 1979).

3. Relations with United Nations agencies

29. In order to comply with the provision of the Regional Plan of Action that "the CEPAL secretariat will establish forms of co-ordination and co-operation with United Nations agencies ... that may be working on this subject",26/ five interinstitutional meetings have been held to date (October and December 1977; June 1978; January and May 1979). In addition to representatives of various divisions and units of CEPAL, ILPES, CELADE and CLADES, they were attended by regional representatives of FAO, PREALC, ILO, UNDP, UNESCO, UNICEF, UNFPA and WHO/PAHO. At these meetings there were fruitful exchanges of views on the co-ordination of joint activities, and a permanent relationship of contact and co-operation is maintained. At present, and with a view to the Second Regional Conference and the World Conference, practical forms of co-operation have been established with several bodies which will submit documents on diverse subjects within their special field.

30. With regard to education, employment and health, which have priority in the agenda of the World Conference, the United Nations agencies directly responsible for these have undertaken to prepare special reports on their activities in each of these fields, including a diagnostic assessment of the situation of women in development.

26/ RPA, paragraph 88.6.

/4. Relations

4. Relations with the Voluntary Fund for the United Nations Decade for Women

31. The Voluntary Fund, created by resolutions of the General Assembly and ECOSOC,27/ advises the Secretary General on the application and utilization of its resources in accordance with the criteria established by the General Assembly 28/ and through a Consultative Committee. This is composed of representatives of five member States designated by the President of the General Assembly for periods of three years. During the period covered by this report the Consultative Committee has held two meetings (its fourth meeting in September 1978 and its fifth in March 1979).

32. At the fourth meeting the CEPAL secretariat submitted the following projects:

(i) Participation of Caribbean Women in Development 29/ (US$ 259,300);

(ii) Promotion and Co-ordination of Action-oriented Research (US$ 114,000);

(iii) Compilation of a Regional Directory on Women and Development 30/ (US$ 11,400);

(iv) Appointment of a programme officer at CEPAL headquarters (US$ 76,429);

(v) Execution of one of the action-oriented research projects: The Image of Women in Primary School Texts (US$ 19,038).

33. The total cost of the projects submitted to the fourth meeting of the Committee amounted to US$ 480,167, of which the Consultative Committee approved at that meeting a total of US$ 93,400, itemized in such a way that the project on the participation of Caribbean women in development was not considered as a single programme but divided into more specific subprojects. In brief, out of the set of projects those approved were the creation of a team of advisers for short-term activities in the CARICOM region (US$ 40,000); the holding of a seminar of women leaders in Cuba (US$ 22,000); the execution of a project in Guayana (US$ 20,000), and the compilation of the regional

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27/ Resolution 3520 (XXX) of 15 December 1975 of the General Assembly and Resolution 1850 (LVI) of 16 March 1974 of the Economic and Social Council.

28/ The criteria of the Voluntary Fund are contained in General Assembly resolution A/31/133 of December 1976.

29/ See paragraph 54 of the present report.

30/ See paragraph 50 (iii) of the present report.

/directory on

directory on women and development (US$ 11,400). The other projects were not approved at this meeting. It should be noted that the Cuba seminar and the Guayana projects were subsequently reformulated with a corresponding variation in the allocations, as may be seen in the appendix.

34. At the fifth meeting of the Consultative Committee the following projects were submitted: (i) Impact of Modernization on a Rural Community: Community Study of the Participation of Women in Health and Welfare Programmes in Brazil and Revision of Services (US$ 13,900); (ii) Pilot Project for Community Training and Demonstration in Paraguay (US$ 6,840); (iii) Active Participation of Rural Women and their Families: Health Training in Bolivia (US$ 101,900);31/ (iv) Prolongation of the post of programme officer (US$ 77,000); (v) Publication of the Regional Bulletin on Women and Development (US$ 26,200); (vi) Promotion and Co-ordination of Action-oriented Research on Women in Development (reformulated project, second submission) (US$ 355,800); (vii) Education and Training for Women and Rural Families in the Countries of Central America using Radiophonic Schools 32/ (US$ 22,800). Finally, a flexible fund was requested for technical assistance missions and generation of projects which amounted to US$ 22,800.

35. The total cost of the projects presented at the fifth meeting amounted to US$ 627,240, of which the Committee decided to approve US$ 221,418, itemized as follows: US$ 129,488 for the national projects (Brazil, Paraguay and Bolivia), US$ 77,000 for the prolongation of the programme officer post, and US$ 684,000 for the partial financing of the project on Education and Training for Women and Rural Families using Radiophonic Schools.

36. The request for a flexible fund was not approved in its entirety but only in respect of two of its activities: the diagnostic study in Ecuador (US$ 4,560) and a meeting of experts to review the progress of the Programme at CEPAL headquarters (US$ 3,530).33/

31/ See paragraph 58 (a) (i), (ii) and (iii) of the present report.

32/ See paragraph 57 of this report.

33/ See paragraph 58 (a) (iv) and paragraphs 44 to 48 of this report.

/37. In

37. In addition to the above projects, the Voluntary Fund has provided resources to print the Regional Plan of Action, to finance a second programme officer post in the CEPAL office in Port of Spain for two years, and to set up a Workshop on the Impact of Agricultural Modernization on the Participation of Rural Women.34/

38. It should be noted that up to the fifth meeting of the Consultative Committee of the Voluntary Fund the CEPAL secretariat, in its capacity as executive body, was responsible for formulating, submitting and supervising the national, subregional and regional projects. At its sixth meeting, in March 1979, the Consultative Committee decided that the national projects might be undertaken by the specialized United Nations agencies, keeping CEPAL informed, or directly through the offices of the resident representatives of UNDP.

39. As may be seen, the number of projects submitted and in progress to date is considerable; however, there are two aspects which have caused difficulties and which it would be advisable to take into account in the future. First, it would be helpful if the meetings of the Consultative Committee were more frequent, in order to shorten the period between the submission of the projects and their initiation, since they are often part of broader programmes and their delay implies a slow-down in the activities as a whole. Second, in view of the characteristics and needs of the region, it would be useful to study the possibility of undertaking not only projects of direct action, but also integrated programmes comprising studies, diagnoses or investigations which are not only intended to enlarge and improve knowledge on the subject in the region, but also to provide a better basis for the projects, making the work more realistic and multiplying its effects.

5. Relations with non-governmental bodies

40. The need for close co-operation with non-governmental bodies is referred to in the Regional Plan of Action in the following terms: "In executing this Regional Plan of Action, within its field of competence, the CEPAL secretariat will establish forms of co-ordination and co-operation with ... private

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34/ See paragraph 58 (a) (ii) of this report.

institutions that may be working on this subject".35/ In pursuance of these instructions CEPAL has a permanent staff member acting as a focal point in its relations with non-governmental bodies, with whom the Women's Integration Programme is working in close co-operation in order to broaden the field of its activities in that direction. The scope of the Programme has been amplified and contact is maintained with various private organizations.

III. ACTIVITIES AND PROJECTS

1. Regional activities and projects

(a) Regional review

41. In the Regional Plan of Action provision was made for a regional review in the following terms: "To draw up a general review and appraisal plan for the region. This must be done immediately in order to have a general plan that can be used for the 1979 biennial review".36/

42. Under this provision the secretariat initiated preparations for an appraisal of the participation of women in Latin America and the Caribbean. To this end a high-level consultant was engaged for three months with part of the permanent funds of the Women's Programme. In addition close relations were established with the Social Development Division, CELADE and other secretariat units and programmes which have supplied materials and specific information and are preparing the documentation needed for the evaluation of the International Development Strategy (IDS).

43. For this purpose an evaluation plan was drawn up which included consideration of the priority sectors under the RPA: legislation, employment, education and health, infrastructure for basic services (water, electricity, sewerage, housing) and the family. In addition, views were gathered on the predominant attitudes in the region with regard to the programmes, measures and activities of the governments and the agencies of the United Nations system in fulfilment of the RPA. Finally, recommendations and suggestions

35/ RPA, paragraph 88.6.

36/ RPA, paragraph 88.5 (i)/88.5 (ix).

/were made

were made in the fields of technical assistance training, research and dissemination for consideration by the national and international public and private organizations. Government replies to the questionnaires sent to them made a major contribution to the evaluation.37/ The relevant secretariat document was one of the contributions to the meeting of the Group of Government Experts which took place in Quito from 8 to 10 March 1979, in which a first draft was made of the evaluation of the situation of women in conformity with the mandates of the Regional Plan of Action. Once this document has been brought up to date with the incorporation of the replies of the governments subsequently received and the commentaries of the agencies it will be submitted for consideration to the Second Regional Conference,38/ which is responsible for the regional evaluation.

(b) Meeting of a Group of Experts to Review the Programme on the Integration of Women

44. On 10 and 11 April 1979 there was a meeting at CEPAL Headquarters of a special group of experts assembled by the CEPAL secretariat to review the programme on The Integration of Women in the Economic and Social Development of Latin America and the Caribbean. The meeting was attended by Profesora Dinora Echaniz de Vonsewer, Dra. Liliana de Riz, Dra. Maritza Izaguirre and the Ambassadress Lourdes de Vicenzi.

45. The group was informed of the state of the programme and also of the documentation on the subject. "Their discussions gave rise to a proposal for an action strategy based on the conditions in which the programme is being carried out and what must be done in the future."

46. Among other observations the report points out that "there is an evident lack of interest on the part of the majority of the member governments with regard to the implementation of specific policies, as has been mentioned by the Presiding Officers of the Regional Conference". "It is therefore necessary to continue to stimulate the United Nations bodies with a view to promoting the definition and implementation of these policies."

37/ See paragraphs, 23, 24, 25 and 26 of the present report.

38/ Situación de la mujer en América Latina en relación con el cumplimiento del Plan de Acción Regional E/CEPAL/CRM/L.2.

/47. Another

47. Another aspect which was considered important was "to identify objectives common to the countries in relation to which a broad field of technical co-operation can be established and a basic framework for the co-ordination of international assistance".

48. In the planning field the experts emphasized that "there is no doubt that women are agents of economic and social development policies, economic because of their direct and also indirect contribution to the economy (with a special emphasis on the role of household work in the reproduction of the labour force) and social in particular because of their socializing role in the family circle. This justifies the systematic treatment of the integration of women in the economic and social planning for development in the region. Moreover, it was thought that this was the only way to ensure the adequate planning of the economic and social development of the objectives which it is hoped to attain". "To this end, and as a starting point, it appears to be important to promote a discussion on how to integrate the subject in the activities of economic and social development planning. For this it seems necessary to encourage the holding of interdisciplinary seminars in which a start can be made in defining this problem and which may give rise to the broad lines of a policy. Since the economic and social development planning of the CEPAL system includes strategic areas such as rural development, urban and regional development, State planning etc., and likewise research, work methodology, technical assistance and training, it is considered desirable to incorporate into these specific fields the treatment of the problem of the integration of women in development. To this end it will be necessary to include in the analysis the topics which have been repeatedly indicated such as: education, employment, health, housing, legislation, sexual stereotypes and social participation, from the planning standpoint." The experts concluded that "the Unit on the Integration of Women in Development plays a key role within the CEPAL system. To continue and increase this role it is recommended that the said Unit be provided as soon as possible with the necessary staff and financial resources".39/

39/ Report of the special group of experts assembled to review the CEPAL programme on the integration of women in development. Santiago, 10 and 11 April 1979 (typed report).

/(c) Research

(c) Research

49. As regards research, the Programme has taken into account that there are in the region national and regional centres for academic research and training of an excellent standard, together with information and document processing services, all of which makes it unnecessary to consider the establishment of training and research centres dedicated to women similar to those existing in other regions (Africa and Asia). On the contrary, the Programme has considered that it should largely confine itself to those aspects of the region which are not covered by the national centres, and at the same time encourage, co-ordinate and give technical assistance to research in those Latin American countries which need to carry out diagnoses and identify needs with a view to the formulation of action programmes.

50. On the basis of this orientation a project has been drawn up on Research for Promoting the Further Integration of Women in Latin American Development: Improvement and Utilization of Census Data and Exchange of Information. This Project, which is contained in the section of the Regional Plan of Action dedicated to research and its objectives, is set out in three subprojects, the aims of which are: (i) to obtain basic data on the economic participation of women which will be useful in the designing of action plans; (ii) to evaluate projects originating in the countries; and (iii) to continue the compilation and systematization of basic information.40/ Originally submitted to the Consultative Committee of the Voluntary Fund for the United Nations Decade for Women, the project was rejected as not being in line with their criteria and finance priorities. Subsequently, it was approved by the United Nations Fund for Population Activities (UNFPA).

(i) Subproject on improvement of census data and survey of the economic activity of women. The objectives of the project are: to improve the basic statistics for the analysis of the economic activity of women, particularly in connexion with household work; to identify the aspects on which information is lacking and determine the type of data needed; to evaluate the suitability of the conceptual framework and methodology used to analyse the characteristics

40/ RPA, paragraph 9.

/of the

of the economic activity of Latin American and Caribbean women. The activities to be undertaken are as follows: the formulation of statistical needs stemming from the conceptual system available for the analysis of the economic activity of women and their integration in development; the preparation of an inventory of the relevant statistics deriving from household surveys, population censuses and administrative records. The aim is to present a new methodology in a field where data are ambiguous and insufficient, so as to furnish specific recommendations usable in the census cycles of 1980. This subproject was carried out with the collaboration of the Centro de Estudios de Población (CENEP) of Buenos Aires. The report of this study has been completed and will be submitted to the Second Conference on the Integration of Women under the title of Evaluation of censuses and household surveys for the analysis of female labour in Latin America and the Caribbean: deficiencies and recommendations for overcoming them.

(ii) Subproject for the study of women in the family group and family organization through the use of census data.41/

(iii) Subproject for the establishment of a basic infrastructure for the future "information clearing house". This subproject aims to create a systematic information base which is both centralized and co-ordinated and to which all institutions, agencies and private individuals will have access, and which in its turn will receive the information proceeding from them. In specific terms, the aims of this project are to act as a catalyst for information on activities connected with the integration of women; to identify, compile and process basic data; to provide as realistic an inventory as possible on the position of research and to identify the experts and institution in the region dealing with the question. It is also hoped that this reference service will become an effective co-ordinating element, producing a normalized vocabulary on the topic and undertaking publications and other forms of dissemination. Within these guidelines and in accordance with the mandates of the Regional Plan of Action,42/ and the requests of the Presiding

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41/ See paragraph 58 (b) (ii) of the present report.

42/ RPA, paragraphs 88.6 and 71.1.

Officers at their First Meeting,43/ and with the support of the Voluntary Fund, two specific activities on the subject have been carried out to date: the preparation and the publication of the Inventory of Projects on the Integration of Women in Development in Latin America, which contains information provided by the agencies of the United Nations System referring to the programmes which are under way or in preparation in the region, and the preparation of a Directory which will be published shortly and which contains names of institutions, projects and individuals in the region engaged in activities designed to achieve the full participation of women in development. This Directory is a work of reference and consultation which permits the whole corpus of available or potential information on women to be identified, so that the institutions and research workers in the region who are engaged in this work will have a better basis for the planning and execution of the programmes. In carrying out this subproject there has been close collaboration with the Latin American Centre for Economic and Social Documentation (CLADES), a member of the CEPAL system.

(d) Other studies

51. In line with the orientation described above and in view of the RPA mandate which recognizes that "the shortcomings of most of the studies carried out in the region, resulting sometimes from an inadequate conceptual framework and in other cases from an inadequate interpretation of statistical data or limitations due to the lack of such data, make it an urgent task to co-ordinate and promote research on the status of women",44/ other studies have been carried out which have resulted in the following reports, of which only the last two have been published:

(i) Estructura social y situación de la mujer rural. Algunas proposiciones. This document summarizes and analyses the papers presented at the first Mexican-Central American research symposium on women (Mexico, November 1977), with special reference to peasant economy, the sexual division

43/ E/CEPAL/MDM/1, paragraphs 9.6 (c) and 9.6 (f).

44/ RPA, paragraph 67.

/of labour

of labour and household work, migration, the role of the family, fertility and the political and civic participation of women. It includes a bibliography containing a summary of the articles presented.

(ii) Las mujeres pobres latinoamericanas. Un esbozo de tipología. This study discusses the different situations of Latin American women in relation to education and employment and in this framework analyses the position of the urban housewife, the women worker, the domestic servant and the indigenous hawker.

(iii) La mayor integración de la mujer en el desarrollo en el área rural de América Latina: Proposiciones. This deals with the sexual division of labour, domestic and social work and the family unit in relation to the implications of different social development patterns for the situation of women.

(iv) Las Naciones Unidas y la situación de la mujer. This document outlines the record in the field of the integration of women from the creation of the Commission on the Legal and Social Status of Women up to the adoption of the Regional Plan of Action as an official instrument of action. It also contains a summary of the activities carried out and the resolutions adopted by the various bodies of the United Nations System on the occasion of the International Women's Year and subsequently.

(v) Situación de la mujer y desarrollo: Acotaciones. This study discusses theoretical aspects of the question, and examines central points such as productive and reproductive work and the social roles of women in the context of the family and social classes, as contributions to the creation of a theoretical framework of reference for the problem to serve as a basis for the preparation of policies and action programmes.

The last two studies mentioned figure in the book Chile, mujer y sociedad, edited by Paz Covarrubias and Rolando Franco and published by UNICEF in 1978.

/2. Subregional

2. Subregional activities and projects

(a) Workshop on the Impact of Agricultural Modernization on the Participation of Rural Women

52. This Workshop, which complies with a mandate of the Regional Plan of Action,45/ was held in Mexico from 22 to 30 October 1978 with the joint participation of CEPAL, FAO, UNICEF and the National System for the Integral Development of the Family (DIF) of the Mexican Government. It was attended by men and women from rural areas of Central America, Panama, Mexico, Cuba and the Dominican Republic, persons who, having direct personal experience of the problems they face, are best qualified to identify what is needed. They drew up specific draft projects which may contribute to a rapid amelioration of their problems, and it is hoped that these projects will subsequently be endorsed by the governments concerned and lead to new national or subregional projects for rural development in the countries of Central America. The experience gained at the Workshop also served as the initial basis and enriched the content of the document Modernization and the Changing Life Chances of Women in Low-Income Rural Families,46/ which will be presented at the FAO World Conference on Agrarian Reform and Rural Development, to be held in Rome this year, and subsequently at the Second Regional Conference on the Integration of Women. It should be noted that the preparations for this Workshop were made in close co-operation with the CEPAL subregional office in Mexico. If, as is foreseen, national projects continue to be put forward in this subregion, the subregional office will in the near future have to assume greater responsibilities than hitherto. Hence it is planned to increase the staff of the office so that the requests made to it can be met. The report of the Workshop is in process of distribution.47/

45/ RPA, paragraph 88.6.

46/ E/CEPAL/L.197.

47/ E/CEPAL/UP/M/196.

/(b) Co-ordination

(b) Co-ordination of Activities for the Integration of Women into Development in the Subregion of Central America and Mexico

53. This project is based on an early one on Promotion and Co-ordination of Research on Action Referring to Women in Development, which was submitted to the fourth and fifth meetings of the Consultative Committee of the Voluntary Fund, being rejected on both occasions. In view of the importance of the project and the recommendation of the Presiding Officers at their Third Meeting to "request the CEPAL secretariat to inform the Consultative Committee of the Voluntary Fund that the Presiding Officers consider indispensable the early approval of the project on co-ordination and promotion of research, which involves the creation of the post of co-ordinator in the CEPAL subregional office in Mexico",48/ together with the fact that the Voluntary Fund might not be able to finance an additional post in the region, CEPAL has prepared a new project on the basis of two petitions: the request for finance for the post of co-ordinator in Mexico has been submitted to the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and a request for complementary funds for activities in the subregion has been submitted to the Voluntary Fund. In order to prepare a more specific description of these activities a mission was recently sent to Mexico and to four Central American countries (Costa Rica, Guatemala, Honduras and Panama) through which an attempt has been made to prepare an integrated programme of the projects. The main purpose of the project is to decentralize the activities in this field in order to give separate consideration to the characteristics and needs of the Central American countries and Mexico. Another objective is to stimulate horizontal co-operation in relation to the problems which are common to the countries of the subregion.

48/ E/CEPAL/MDM/5/Rev.1/28.6.

/(c) The

(c) The Participation of Caribbean Women in Development: Training and Income-Generating Programmes

54. The Regional Plan of Action states that "CEPAL's subregional offices will act as liaison offices between the governments of the respective subregions and the secretariat's specialized unit on women's problems, in connexion with programmes of technical assistance and collaboration with the national bodies in charge of women's integration in development".49/ In addition, at their first meeting the Presiding Officers recommended that the CEPAL secretariat should "pay special attention to subregional projects that coincide with priority areas indicated by the governments concerned".50/ In accordance with these instructions and after various preparatory activities and a long mission in the Caribbean subregion, an outline of an integrated programme was drawn up with the central objective of promoting the incorporation of Caribbean women into development. The programme was designed to reflect and respond to the specific requirements both of the subregion as a whole and of the individual countries, and was drawn up in close co-operation with the CEPAL office in Port of Spain. Finally, at the meeting of the Caribbean Development and Co-operation Committee (CDCC) in Belize in April 1979 a joint integrated programme was presented with a flexible and open framework, that is, a sort of network of interrelated projects. The Caribbean Governments approved it in principle, subject to some small modifications, and expressed the hope that the activities envisaged would be initiated as soon as possible.

55. Subsequently, in July and August, the secretariat received other project proposals from the CARICOM secretariat, the Cuban Government and the Government of Guayana, to be incorporated into the aforesaid programme network, which after reformulation was submitted to the Voluntary Fund. The project includes activities such as: the formation of teams of consultants working for short periods to research and organize a seminar on training in handicraft and agro-industry programmes in the CARICOM area;

49/ RPA, paragraph 88.7.

50/ E/CEPAL/MDM/1, paragraph 9.4.

/a one-month

a one-month seminar to be held in Cuba to train women leaders from the subregion, with two participants from each country, one representing the public and the other the private sector; and a programme for integrated development in Guayana, which will provide support services and training in production and marketing for women's activities.

56. Under this joint integrated programme the following activities have been carried out to date: a seminar on training in handicraft and agro-industry programmes in the CARICOM region, organized by the University of the West Indies, with the knowledge of CEPAL, and the seminar for women leaders in the subregion (Havana, from 2 to 18 July 1979), attended by governmental and non-governmental representatives from Barbados, Dominica, Granada, Guayana, Jamaica, St. Kitts, Suriname, the Dominican Republic and Cuba. The report of the seminar will be distributed shortly. The programme for integrated rural development in Guayana has been approved and is now under way.51/

(d) Education and Training for Women and Rural Families in the Countries of Central America using Radiophonic Schools (Technical co-operation among the countries of the subregion.)

57. This project is based on the draft projects drawn up at the Workshop on the Impact of Agricultural Modernization on the Participation of Rural Women, held in Mexico from 23 to 30 October 1978. It proposes a specific activity aimed at the training of rural women in programmes of organization, home management, agro-industry and others, through the use of radiophonic schools. It also seeks to stimulate and support horizontal technical co-operation among the countries of the subregion. The Voluntary Fund has approved the finance for the initial phase of the project, in which an exploratory study will be made that includes a mission to various countries in Central America. The study will be initiated shortly, and once its results have been assessed the programme of activities for the project will be organized and additional resources will be sought for its implementation.

51/ See paragraph 58 (a) (v) of this report.

3. National activities and projects

58. At national level there are various activities grouped into two types of project: action-oriented projects and research projects.

(a) Action-oriented projects

(i) Active Participation of Rural Women and their Families: Health Training in Bolivia. The purpose of this project is to improve the health conditions of rural families in the six most densely populated departments of Bolivia by disseminating appropriate knowledge of health and environmental hygiene. The means of achieving this objective will be a health programme forming part of the activities of the Maternal and Child Division of the Ministry of Social Security and Public Health, which will train the staff responsible for the programme, draw up a methodology and prepare the educational material. The project under way represents a preparatory phase in the formulation of operational models for the Government's health policy; these models will subsequently be put into effect. This project was approved by the Voluntary Fund in March 1979, the duration of this phase being 24 months. The initial preparations have already been completed.

(ii) Impact of Modernization on a Rural Community: Community Study of the Participation of Women in Health and Welfare Programmes in Brazil and Revision of Services. This project has various objectives: first, the dissemination of health knowledge through new approaches to their solution with the participation of the women of a community, and the university and its students; second, the formulation of health programmes in co-operation with the community and their implementation in their new health centre; third, an attempt to use this experience as a possible model for the formulation of new community health programmes. This project was approved by the Voluntary Fund in March 1979 and is at present in its initial stage.

(iii) Pilot Project for Community Training and Demonstration in Paraguay. The project covers the training of the family and rural women in agro-industry and home management in a Paraguayan community, in which a broad community development programme organized by the Technical Secretariat for Planning of the Government of Paraguay is now taking place. The same professionals who

/are now

are now working on the community development programme will be responsible for administering and implementing the pilot project, which was approved by the Fund in March 1979 and is now in its initial phase.

(iv) Studies for the Ecuadorian Development Plan. This activity complies with the RPA mandate in which it is recommended "to supply, in co-ordination with governmental and intergovernmental bodies, help to the governments which request it in the identification of measures needed for the devising of policies, strategies and programmes destined to strengthen the contribution of women to socio-economic development ...".52/ The Government of Ecuador requested co-operation in the preparation of a diagnosis on the situation of women in that country in order to provide a better grounding for the Development Plan and the National Community Development Strategy. An exploratory mission was sent to Ecuador to establish this co-operation and the necessary resources were obtained from the Fund for a consultant to undertake the exploratory study. It is hoped to initiate this very shortly.

(v) Production Training and Marketing (Guayana). Although this project originally formed part of the Integrated Programme on the Participation of Caribbean Women in Development,53/ it was approved by the Fund in isolation, that is, as a national project. It is a pilot project whose chief objective is to train the women of a community in various activities, such as: to create a women's co-operative centre for the production of children's clothing and to train them in marketing and income-generating techniques. From the assessment of this project it is hoped to obtain information on the possibilities of broadening this experiment, whether through the formulation of new projects for training and income generation, or through the creation of new national training centres.

52/ RPA, paragraph 88.5 (viii).

53/ See paragraphs 54, 55 and 56 of this report.

/(b) Research

(b) Research projects

(i) Study on Tres Mujeres Chilenas de Clase Media. This consists of an analysis of the situation of women on the basis of case studies, relating the cycle of family life with the living conditions of the family groups and considering the implications of the predominant development styles in the region. This study has been completed and is published in the book entitled Chile, mujer y sociedad published in 1978 by UNICEF.

(ii) Study on Women in the Family Group and Family Organization through the Use of Census Data. This project forms part of the Project on Research for Promoting the Further Integration of Women in Latin American Development: Improvement and Utilization of Census Data and Exchange of Information.54/ In this project a methodology is prepared for the constitution of family records from census data, in order to analyse the interrelation between the various female roles. The study seeks to evalute the conditions of life of the families, identify forms of living together, and detect the differential patterns for men and women in relation to education, economic activity and migration. The project was centred on specific studies on Bolivia. The report is being revised and will shortly be distributed under the title of The family and the situation of women in different Bolivian contexts.

54/ See paragraph 50 of this report.

IV. MEETINGS, CONFERENCES AND OTHER ACTIVITIES

59. The programme for the Integration of Women in Development has been represented at the CEPAL sessions in Guatemala (April-May 1977) and La Paz (April 1979), at the meeting of the United Nations Commission on the Legal Status of Women (March 1978), and at the meetings of the Caribbean Development and Co-operation Committee (CDCC) held in Belize (April 1978) and Suriname (March 1979). Finally, representatives of the programme acted as secretariat at the meetings of the Presiding Officers of the Regional Conference, which took place in Kingston, Jamaica (February 1978), Mexico (September 1978) and Quito (March 1979), as also at the Meeting of the Group of Government Experts to assess the implementation of the Regional Plan of Action for the Integration of Women in the Economic and Social Development of Latin America (Quito, March 1979).

60. Missions to countries of the region have continued, and the subject of the integration of women has been included in the technical assistance missions of the Latin American Institute for Economic and Social Planning (ILPES) to various countries. The meetings of Planning Ministers of Latin America and the Caribbean (Lima, November 1978 and Cuba, January 1979) included the situation of women in their agenda, and at the latter meeting a resolution was adopted on the integration of women in development which recommends that "(a) ILPES should study and propose measures to link the subject of women in development with planning efforts and that (b) CEPAL, ILPES and the CDCC should make regional studies on the legal aspects of the situation of women and on the changes in State organization needed to plan activities in this field". These resolutions were considered by the governments of the CDCC at their fourth session (March 1979).

61. Various seminars on the subject of women in society have been attended, including those organized by the Colegio de Mexico (Mexico, November 1977) and by the University of Sussex (England, September 1978). A representative was also sent to the seminar organized by the Rio de Janeiro University Research Institute on Women in the Labour Force, which had participants from all over Latin America (November 1978). At all these events contributions were submitted in writing.

/62. CEPAL

62. CEPAL was also represented at a workshop on Women in Development, organized by the National Cultural Institute of Peru and the Institute of Social Studies of The Netherlands (The Hague, October-December 1978), and at a seminar for the exchange of experience on women's projects organized by the International Planned Parenthood Federation (IPPF) in Quito, Ecuador, from 27 to 29 November 1978. Mention should also be made of attendance by representatives of CEPAL at the meeting organized in New York (March 1978) by non-governmental organizations (ONGS) - which have consultative status with the United Nations - to discuss the preparation of activities to be carried out in the 1980s. CEPAL also took part in the meeting of the Co-ordinating Committee composed of representatives of the University of the West Indies, the Women's Organizations (CARIWA) and the churches of the Caribbean.

V. ACTIVITIES AND PROJECTS IN RELATION TO THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE RPA AND THEIR FUTURE PROJECTIONS

63. Despite the small staff of the Unit some future activities have been planned which may be summarized as follows:

(a) Some activities are contemplated in pursuance of the mandates of the RPA and of those arising from the resolutions of the Second Regional Conference on the Integration of Women in the Economic and Social Development of Latin America.

(b) Work will continue on the activities connected with the generation, formulation, execution and supervision of projects, especially the national, subregional and regional activities which are concerned with overall and sectoral planning and which allow an effective place for women in the development process.

(c) Assistance will continue to be given to countries and institutions in the form of advice, organization and preparation of meetings and seminars, supervision of research and studies for projects and activities in line with the goals of the RPA and allied resolutions.

/(d) In

(d) In conjunction with the sub-unit in the Port of Spain office, measures will be taken to stimulate, co-ordinate and supervise the activities on the integration of women in the sphere of the CDCC. Something similar will be attempted in the subregion of Central America and Mexico, in so far as the necessary funds are obtained to create a post of co-ordinator of activities in the Mexico subregional office.

(e) As regards studies, preference will be given to those concerned with the diagnoses necessary for the assessment of the implementation of the RPA. In this connexion concrete situations will be examined and substantive documents prepared on the integration of women in Latin American social development. These tasks include the compilation and systematization of relevant information on activities and studies within the region.

/Appendix

Appendix

STATE OF THE PROJECTS

Title of projects	Duration	Source of Finance	Present state	Project budget US$
1. Research for Promoting Further Integration of Women in Latin American Development: Improvement and Utilization of Census Data and Exchange of Information	24 months	UNFPA	In progress	58 100
2. Integration of Women in Latin American Development: Institutions, Activities, Human Resources.	12 months	Voluntary Fund	In progress	11 400
3. Workshop on the Impact of Agricultural Modernization on the Participation of Rural Women.	1 week	Voluntary Fund	Completed	13 100
4. Co-ordination of Activities for the Integration of women into Development in the subregion of Central America and Mexico	24 months	Voluntary Fund/ UNDP	Under consideration	216 600/ 146 000

/(Cont.1)

(Cont.1)

Title of project	Duration	Source of Finance	Present state	Project budget US$
5. The Participation of Caribbean Women in Development: Training and Income-Generating Programmes	24 months	Voluntary Fund		259 300
(a) Training Seminar in Crafts and Agro-industrial Programmes in the CARICOM Region		Voluntary Fund	Completed	41 040
(b) A seminar for Training Caribbean Women Leaders (Cuba)	1 month	Voluntary Fund	Completed	35 000
(c) Production Training and Marketing (Guayana)	24 months	Voluntary Fund	In progress	56 340
6. Education and Training for Women and rural Families in the Countries of Central America using Radiophonic Schools (Technical co-operation among the countries of the subregion)	6 months	Voluntary Fund	Preliminary feasibility study in progress	22 800
7. Active Participation of Rural Women and their Families: Health Training in Bolivia	24 months	Voluntary Fund	In progress	101 900

/(Cont.2)

(Cont.2)

Title of project	Duration	Source of Finance	Present state	Project budget US$
8. Impact of Modernization on a Rural Community: Community Study of the Participation of Women in Health and Welfare Programmes in Brazil and Revision of Services	12 months	Voluntary Fund	In progress	13 900
9. Pilot Project for Community Training and Demonstration in Paraguay	6 months	Voluntary Fund	In progress	6 840
10. Studies for the Ecuadorian Development Plan	4 months	Voluntary Fund	Approved	4 560
11. Meeting of a Group of Experts to Review the Programme on the Integration of Women	4 days	Voluntary Fund	Completed	3 530
12. Public Information Activities: Magazine Articles and Slides	.....	Voluntary Fund	Approved	2 620
13. Expert on Integration of Women in Development	From 1977 for 4 years	Government of Sweden	In progress	266 713*
14. Santiago Programme Officer	From 1977 for 4 years	Voluntary Fund	In progress	220 000*
15. Caribbean Programme Officer	From May 1979 for 2 years	Voluntary Fund	In progress	105 300**

/(Conclusion)

(Conclusion)

* Estimated cost for the four years.

** Estimated cost for the two years.

Total finance granted by UNFPA	58 100
Total finance granted by the Government of Sweden	266 713
Total finance requested from UNDP	146 000
Total finance requested from the Voluntary Fund	854 930
Total finance granted by the Voluntary Fund	586 578
General total requested	1 325 743
General total granted	911 391